

Filed for intro on 03/02/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 505
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to commend the Interfaith Dental Clinic of
Nashville for its provision of affordable dental
care to the community.

WHEREAS, the Nashville Dental Society and the Outreach Commission of the West End United Methodist Church, in November of 1994, initiated the Interfaith Dental Clinic to address the inadequacy of affordable dental care for the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas Underwood conceived the initiative following his participation in an overseas volunteer mission. The clinic was first housed in the basement of the West End United Methodist Church with two dental chairs and a single staff member who was both executive director and a full-time dentist; and

WHEREAS, the stated mission of the clinic is "to restore, protect, and improve the oral health of the uninsured, low income, employed persons, their children, and those over age sixty-five in the greater Nashville area through access to affordable quality dental care, oral disease prevention services, and oral health education"; and

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WHEREAS, the Interfaith Dental Clinic now has its own building that has room for six dental chairs, a laboratory, x-ray, reception, and office space. The staff has grown to include a full-time dentist/executive director, a dental hygienist, two dental assistants, a part-time receptionist and the services of over 265 volunteer dental professionals from both the private and the public health sectors; and

WHEREAS, continuing financial support comes from the West End United Methodist Church and as many as eleven other churches in the Nashville area, and the Nashville Dental Society furnishes a constant flow of volunteers; and

WHEREAS, patient visits to the Interfaith Dental Clinic have grown from a total of 561 in 1995 to 2509 in 1999. The market value of dental services, which totaled \$96,418.50 for the last two quarters of 1996, totaled \$646,651.00 for all of 1999. In 1998, the volunteer hours of dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, office workers and special project volunteers totaled 691.25 hours; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Interfaith Dental Clinic stems in great part from the hard work and commitment of Rhonda Switzer, DMD, Executive Director and Executive Committee member; Lindsey Cooper, DMD, Chair of the Executive Committee; Jim Clark, Jr. DDS, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee; Board of Directors members Ms. Laura Beth Brown, Mrs. Lesa Wilson-Byrum, Bishop Roy C. Clark, Dr. Jim Elder, Dr. Ray Fossick, Mrs. Pat Horvat, Dr. Charles Ingram, Mr. Ashley McNulty, Dr. Jim Phillips, Mrs. Lisa Stickle, Dr. Tom Underwood and Mrs. Cathy Wedekind; and

WHEREAS, Advisory Council members Mr. John Campbell, Mrs. Susanna Clark, the Reverend Bob Coleman, Mr. Cliff Harrison, Dr. Gibson Johnson, Dr. Harry Legan, and Mr. Ken Peterman, as well as the staff and the hundreds of volunteers, are also critical to the success of the clinic; and

WHEREAS, the relief of suffering, preservation of self-esteem, and improvement of economic options of families throughout Davidson and surrounding counties represent an incalculable contribution to the quality of life of hundreds of deserving people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we recognize and thank the Interfaith Dental Clinic, its Executive Director and staff; the members of the Board of Directors, its Executive Committee and its Advisory Committee; the Nashville Dental Society, and the supporting local churches, as well as the many participating volunteers for their outstanding contributions in the provision of affordable dental care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.